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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/552,707

10/07/2005

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EXAMINER

SCHILLINGER, ANN M

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3774

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

03/17/2010

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/552,707	Applicant(s) LINK ET AL.	
	Examiner ANN SCHILLINGER	Art Unit 3774	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 November 2009.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 2,3,5,6 and 9-13 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 2,3,5,6 and 9-13 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

Claims 2,3, 5, 6, and 9-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. Claim 11 describes the core as forming an articular joint. There is insufficient support in the specification and the drawings to support the limitation of “forming an articular joint.” Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 2, 3, 6, 9, and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Marnay et al. (US Pub. No. 2005/0085917). Marnay et al. discloses the following of the claimed invention: an intervertebral joint prosthesis (1) comprising a core (4), an upper cover plate (2) with an upper surface; a lower cover plate (3) with a lower surface, where the lower and upper surfaces each have a toothed central (6, 14) extent formed by elevations and depressions and an

Art Unit: 3774

untoothed lateral extent located on an edge of the central extent in a coronal plane, the lateral extent extending from the edge of the central extent to lateral sides of the lower and upper cover plates, the central extent protruding beyond the lateral extent, and the lateral extent having an incline relative to a transverse plane, the coronal plane and the transverse plane being taken relative to an orientation of the prosthesis in an implanted position (Figs. 1-3; col. 3, lines 56-63).

Marnay et al. discloses the limitations of claims 2, 3, 6, and 9 as shown in Figures 1-3 and in paragraphs 0038-0039 and 0053.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 5 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Marnay et al.. Marnay et al. discloses the claimed invention except for the inclination measurements claimed by the Applicant. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the claimed inclination measurements, since it has been held that where the general conditions of the claim are disclosed in the prior art, discovering the optimum or workable ranges of the apparatus involves only routine skill in the art.

Claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Marnay et al. in view of Michelson (U.S. Pat. No. 6,083,228). Marnay et al. discloses the invention substantially as claimed, however, Marnay et al. does not disclose an instrument set used to prepare the vertebral bodies to accommodate the prosthesis. Michelson teaches an intervertebral instrument

Art Unit: 3774

set used to prepare the vertebral bodies to accommodate the prosthesis in col. 2, lines 12-47 and col. 7, lines 11-49 for the purpose of providing adequate space and support for the prosthesis.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use an instrument set used to prepare the vertebral bodies to accommodate the prosthesis in order to provide adequate space and support for the prosthesis.

Claim 13 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Marnay et al. in view of Errico et al. (U.S. Pub. No. 2003/0069586). Marnay et al. discloses the invention substantially as claimed, however, Marnay et al. does not specifically disclose prosthesis with a width that is more than 1.63 times as great as the depth. If not inherent in Marnay et al., Errico et al. teaches an intervertebral prosthesis with a width that is more than 1.63 times as great as the depth in paragraph 0016 for the purpose of allowing the prosthesis to fit properly within a correspondingly dimensioned intervertebral space. In addition, Errico et al. indicates that the prosthesis may be given a plurality of width and depth combinations, to properly fit a particular patient. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to make a prosthesis with a width that is more than 1.63 times as great as the depth in order to allow the prosthesis to fit properly within a correspondingly dimensioned intervertebral space.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 11/16/2009 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Art Unit: 3774

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to ANN SCHILLINGER whose telephone number is (571)272-6652. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon. thru Fri. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Isabella can be reached on (571) 272-4749. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 3774

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/A. S./

Examiner, Art Unit 3774

/DAVID ISABELLA/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3774